

NATHANIEL HEARD—HEIRS OF.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 631.]

APRIL 13, 1860,

Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition and papers of the heirs of Nathaniel Heard, report :*

That this subject was before the last Congress, and fully considered by the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, who made a report, No. 201, accompanied by a bill for the relief of the petitioners, No. 449. Your committee adopt that report as a part of this, to be printed therewith, and present a bill similar in all respects to that reported at the last Congress, and recommend its passage.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 26, 1858.*

Mr. CLAWSON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following report :

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Nathaniel Heard, make the following report :*

From the petition and evidence in this case, it appears that Nathaniel Heard, deceased, formerly a resident of Woodbridge, in the State of New Jersey, was recognized as a general, and performed service as such in September and November, 1776, and was duly appointed a brigadier general of the militia of said State on the 1st day of February, 1777 ; that he was a man of wealth, and owned a large property, consisting, principally, of dwelling-houses in said town, which were destroyed by fire in 1777 by the British troops, who then occupied Perth Amboy ; that he kept his headquarters at his own dwelling-house in said town, and issued his orders therefrom ; that said dwelling-house was occupied as such headquarters, or as a military rendezvous, until it was burned and destroyed by the British, together with all other buildings belonging to him in said village, and they carried off or destroyed all his other property ; after which

he removed his headquarters about two miles from the village of Woodbridge to a place called the "Cottage," where he resided during the remainder of the revolutionary war. Under an act of the legislature of the State of New Jersey, entitled "An act to procure an estimate of the damages sustained by the inhabitants of this State from the waste and spoil committed by the troops in the service of the enemy, and their adherents, by the continental army, or by the militia of this or of any of the neighboring States," passed December 20, 1781, that part of the property of said General Heard, occupied by him as a military rendezvous, and connected therewith, was duly appraised by the appraisers appointed by said State, as follows :

*An inventory of sundry goods and chattels taken and carried off by the enemy and their adherents, at different times, from Nathaniel Heard, of Woodbridge, in Middlesex county, State of New Jersey :*

	£	s.	d.
1776—To 600 bushels of Indian corn, 3s.....	90	0	0
To 350 bushels of wheat, 5s.....	87	0	0
To 250 bushels of rye, 3s. 9d.....	46	17	6
To 350 bushels of oats, 2s.....	35	0	0
To 100 bushels of flaxseed.....	30	0	0
To 40 tons of English hay, best quality.....	120	0	0
To 30 tons of salt hay.....	37	10	0
To 6 ox-cart loads of flax.....	9	0	0
To 1,000 panels of fence, two-thirds of cedar and chestnut.....	100	0	0
To 22 hogsheds of cider.....	33	0	0
To 12 head of horned cattle, being one-half 2 years old, and the others 3 years old.....	33	0	0
To 1 large riding horse, 6 years old.....	35	0	0
1777—To 2 dwelling-houses burnt, four rooms on a floor, 2½ stories high, well finished, fifty feet in length ; 1 boating-house, 2½ stories high ; 1 hatter's shop, well finished ; 1 weaver's shop, well finished, loom and tackling ; 1 wagon-house ; 1 chair-house ; 2 barns, and 1 large stable, 60 feet in length.....	1,500	0	0
To 1 breeding mare, near full blood, 8 years old.....	30	0	0
	2,186	17	6

General Nathaniel Heard, being sworn, said that the above inventory is just and true, and that he hath not received any satisfaction or compensation for any of the articles therein contained.

NATHANIEL HEARD.

Sworn the 17th September, 1782, before

BENJAMIN MANNING,

*Appraiser.*

Thomas Edgar, being sworn, saith that he personally knew the building of General Nathaniel Heard, which was burnt and destroyed by the enemy as above mentioned, and does judge they were worth £1,500.

THOMAS EDGAR.

Sworn the 17th September, 1782, before—

BENJAMIN MANNING,  
*Appraiser.*

A true copy from “a book of register and copy of inventory of the damages done by the enemy and their adherents to the inhabitants of the county of Middlesex,” taken and approved by

BENJAMIN MANNING,  
JOSEPH OLDEN,  
NATHANIEL HUNT,  
*Appraisers.*

A. D. 1782.

C. J. IHRIE,  
*State Librarian.*

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY :

I, Thomas S. Allison, secretary of state of the State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that Charles J. Ihrie, esq., who hath signed the preceding certificate, is librarian of the State of New Jersey, duly appointed, commissioned, and sworn; that full faith and credit are to be given to his official attestations, and that the signature thereto is in the proper handwriting of the said Charles J. Ihrie, esq.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my [L. s.] seal of office, in Trenton, this twenty-ninth day of June, 1854.

THOMAS ALLISON,  
*Secretary of State.*

The value of the above property at the time of its loss or destruction appears to have been \$5,470 45, which amount the committee think ought to be allowed, it being satisfactorily proven that the occupation of the buildings by the United States, in the manner above mentioned, was the cause of its destruction. The committee are satisfied that General Heard sustained damages to a very large amount in consequence of the destruction of his property by the enemy, other than that mentioned in the above appraisal, but they do not think the United States are properly chargeable for such losses. This view was expressed by a committee of this House when the subject was considered, April 3, 1856.—(See House Doc. No. 26, 1st session 34th Congress.) Since the date of that report much additional and satisfactory evidence has been furnished tending to prove the facts above stated. The evidence consists in the depositions of Courtland Kinney, Henry Campbell, George Justee, Moses Jaques, M. D., and Tabitha Martin, persons of credibility; also, letters of J. W. Scott,

B. F. Stockton, W. D. V. Heard, and John Thompson Mason; official certificate of Thomas S. Allison, secretary of New Jersey, proving the appointment of Nathaniel Heard, his grade or rank, and his services in the revolution; the act of the New Jersey legislature, passed December 20, 1781, and the appraisal above set forth, made in 1782. The committee therefore report a bill in favor of the heirs and legal representatives of the said Nathaniel Heard, for the value of the property appraised, and recommend its passage.